Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know what is the practice in the Madras General Hospital?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* In the out-patient department they do not charge anything. In the in-patient department, they charge more or less the same rates as we intend to do here.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Does it stop at Rs. 200 there also?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Yes.

Mr. President: These rules were framed by the Chief Medical Officer on the analogy of similar rules prevailing elsewhere.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the same fees are charged in the mofussil hospitals?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Yes, the same rate.

Announcement of Bills assented to by His Highness the Maharaja

Secretary to the Council: Sir, under Standing Order 5 (2), I have to announce to the Council that His Highness the Maharaja has given his gracious assent to the following Bills passed by the Council: (1) The Cochin Registration Act (Amendment) Bill, (2) The Cochin Insolvency Act (Amendment) Bill and (3) the Cochin Child Marriage Restraint Bill.

SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS

1. Rs. 1,000 under "4 Co-operative Societies—Miscellaneous"

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I request that the House may be pleased to grant an additional allotment of Rs. 1,000 under "4 Co-operative Societies—Miscellaneous." As stated in the note circulated among the members, we have to conduct an enquiry into some defalcations in the Ernakulam Government Servants' Co-operative Society. This could not have been anticipated at the time the budget was prepared. I request the House may be pleased to grant the allotment.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether this amount of Rs. 1,000 is to be spent for conducting the enquiry into the various charges against the officers of the society?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. The actual amount that may be necessary may be a little less, but we have now put it at Rs. 1,000.

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Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* May I know whether any departmental enquiry was conducted?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, in a way. But it was not an exhaustive one. We thought that these people should be given a fairer chance than a mere departmental enquiry. Therefore, it was entrusted to a judicial officer who commands the widest respect and greatest confidence in the State and who has now retired from the bench. I refer to the ex-Chief Justice, Mr. Antony.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is this special tribunal set up so that the persons connected with this case may be given a fairer trial?

Mr. President: The inquiry that is going to be conducted now will be the departmental enquiry. We wanted to see that even in such an inquiry the persons who are the subject-matter of inquiry should be given a fair and full chance of proving their innocence. This is really a first class departmental enquiry.

Demand put and carried

2. Rs. 2,500 under "14-8—Town Councils—Temporary Establishment"

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I request for a grant of Rs. 2,500 under "14-8 Town Councils—Temporary Establishment." This is intended to meet the expenses connected with the staff appointed for the constitution of Town Councils. Their period has been extended for six months, so that the preliminary work for the establishment of these institutions in Trippunittura, Ollur, Cranganur, Chalakkudi and Pazhanji may be undertaken. I request the grant may be sanctioned by the House.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I oppose the motion. I supported the Town Councils Bill, because it was only an experimental measure. We have tried that experiment in Vadakkancheri and Kunnamkulam. Let us wait for some time. After the war, we shall take up Chalakkudi or any other place.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I think all these misapprehensions and fears are out of place. If you study this question properly you will find the Town Councils are not at all burdensome in the places where they are constituted.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* But what is the urgency?

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